COVERUPS!

Number 10 | Gary Mack, Editor & Publisher | May, 1983

House resolution may free HSCA files

by Gary Mack

Nearly all internal files and reports generated by the HSCA may soon be available to researchers if Congress votes "Yes" on House Resolution 160. In a letter to members of ACCESS (Association of Concerned Citizens for Ending Senseless Secrecy), Director Mark Allen and Legislative Coordinator Kevin Walsh detailed the results of lengthy lobbying efforts aimed at freeing the HSCA's hidden records.

On April 13, 1983, Congressman Stewart McKinney and HSCA colleagues Robert Edgar, Harold Sawyer, Walter Fauntroy and Harold Ford introduced the Resolution "to provide for the accelerated release of certain records of the Select Committee on Assassinations." The resolution, as expected, was referred to the Committee on House Administration for consideration. Assuming the Committee reports favorably, the Resolution can be voted upon by the full House. If it passes, the 50-year embargo on HSCA material will be lifted.

The Resolution specifically exempts records the HSCA voted to keep secret or those where confidentiality was promised to witnesses in executive session. Furthermore, HR160 recommends that disclosure follow the same guidelines as those used for Warren Commission material. Also, it urges the General Services Administration to "give priority to the review and release of these records."

The withholding of all material not published in the Final Report or accompanying volumes has been nearly as controversial as the Committee's conclusions. Standard procedures for a House committee demand non-disclosure unless the Committee votes against it. Since the HSCA never voted, its files were locked for the required 50 years. Over the past four years they have been shuffled from HSCA offices to the Library of Congress and, finally, to the National Archives. In conversations with Clerk of The House Tom Ladd and his associates, I've learned that the numerous boxes and cabinets are almost completely unindexed.

It's not known whether the HSCA planned to withhold the nonpublished material, but it seems a decision had been made *before* the Committee went out of existence. In the March 1981 issue of The Continuing Inquiry I reproduced part of a letter from HSCA Counsel Robert Blakey to John Sigalos, attorney for Charles Bronson. After attempting to arrange a computer enhanced study of the Bronson film, Blakey assured Sigalos there would be no unauthorized use or exhibition of the film, adding "Any copies of the film retained by the Committee will be immune from public inquiry under the Freedom of Information Act. This Congressional immunity will continue to be operative after these copies are delivered to the National Archives once the Committee has terminated its existence." The letter was dated November 27, 1978.

ACCESS Director Mark Allen, who last month won a major FOI suit against the CIA, urges all members and researchers to write to their Congressmen in support of HR160. Opinions about the quality and integrity of the HSCA, as well as theories about any part of the assassination, will not be helpful. Letters should stress the release of documents for their scientific and historical value. Copies of useful replies should be forwarded to ACCESS, P.O.Box 9032, Washington, D.C. 20003. Write to the same address to become a member—no money is necessary, but contributions are welcome.

98TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 160

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 13, 1983

Mr. McKINNEY (for himself, Mr. EDGAR, Mr. SAWYER, Mr. FAUNTROY, and Mr. FORD of Tennessee) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

To provide for the accelerated release of certain records of the Select Committee on Assassinations.

Resolved, That, notwithstanding the provisions of House Resolution 288 of the 83d Congress, the Clerk of the House is authorized and directed to permit the Administrator of General Services to make available for public use, in accordance with this resolution, all records of the Select Committee on Assassinations of the 94th and 95th Congresses other than records of proceedings the Select Committee on Assassinations voted to keep secret or records with respect to which the committee guaranteed confidentiality to a witness in executive session.

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SEC. 2. Except as provided by the first section of this resolution, the guidelines governing disclosure of the records of the Select Committee on Assassinations shall be the guidelines utilized by the General Services Administration for the records of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy.

SEC. 3. It is the intent of the House that the General Services Administration give priority to the review and release of these records.

STATEMENT REGARDING HOUSE RESOLUTION # 160 Hon. Robert W. Edgar

April 12, 1983

Mr. Speaker, it has been almost 20 years since the assassination of President Kennedy and 15 years since the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. I believe it would be an appropriate remembrance of their tragic deaths if we would pass this resolution introduced here today.

The resolution makes the proceedings of the Select Committee on Assassinations available to the public. This is an action which the Committee, of which I was a member, intended to take but failed to carry out for lack of time and money in the waning days of its existence.

We can affirm a policy of full disclosure of the proceedings in a manner consistent with the protection of classified information and the protection of innocent victims. The release of the Committee's work would be governed by the guidelines used in making the Warren Commission documents available, and I certainly believe the House proceedings are comparable documents.

The Warren Commission has released over 90% of its records and the FBI and CIA have made thousands of pages available to the public in the interest of an informed citizenry.

For Congress to stand alone in the withholding of its files can only create an aura of mistrust and skepticism as to the thoroughness and competency of the House investigation.

I state, as I believe President Kennedy and Dr. King would state were they here today, that it is in the national interest to make the Assassination Committee's proceedings, under responsible federal guidelines, available to the public.

RELEASING THE RECORDS OF THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

HON. STEWART B. McKINNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 1983

● Mr. McKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 20th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the 15th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. Today I am joining with four of my colleagues from the former House Select Committee on Assassinations (SCOA) to introduce a resolution that will write the final chapter in the lives of these two great men—the public release of the proceedings of that committee.

Nearly all proceedings of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, better known as the Warren Commission, have been available for years to scholars, historians, journalists, and the interested public. The FBI has a separate reading room just for unclassified documents relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. Yet right across the hall from the Warren Commission documents; in the National Archives, the SCOA documents remain closed to the public, and for no reason.

By all accounts, the select committee sought full public disclosure of the facts relating to its investigations, but time and money constraints at the end of its tenure prevented the necessary review and release. Because the committee failed to act to open up its proceedings to the public, the records have been embargoed for 50 years in accordance with normal House rules. Our resolution would simply direct the Clerk of the House to release those documents now.

The opening up of these important documents would serve two purposes: it would assist those with scholarly or personal interest in the lives of these two men; and it would allow the public to assess fairly the performance and conclusions of the Select Committee on Assassinations.

I would like to assure my colleagues that no sensitive material would be released under this resolution. It adopts the guidelines used by the National Archives for processing the Warren Commission's records. These guidelines prevent the release of information that:

Would be detrimental to enforcement of U.S. law;

Might reveal the identity of confidential sources or jeopardize future investigations; or

Might embarrass innocent individuals.

In addition, our resolution prohibits the release of records from any proceedings that the committee voted to keep secret or where confidentiality was guaranteed to a witness in executive session.

Even under these strict guidelines, over 90 percent of the Warren Commission documents have been released. Thousands of Americans have made use of this material, with no detriment to national security. I might add, Mr. Speaker, that passage of this important resolution will not cost the Government any additional money, as the National Archives already has archivists familiar with the topic from working with the Warren Commission records.

What this resolution comes down to is the public's right to know about the tragic deaths of two of our finest leaders and about the procedures of the House investigation. To keep the House records secret when nearly all of the Warren Commission documents have been released only contributes to public distrust of our activities.

I need hardly remind my colleagues that President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King were eloquent advocates of honest government and an educated citizenry. Our passing this resolution and releasing the Select Committee on Assassination records would be a most worthy testament to these two men after so many years. ●

DMN 4-2-83

12 indicted in Florida

TAMPA, Fla. — Reputed Florida underworld boss Santo Trafficante and 11 others have been indicted on racketeering charges in what authorities say was a plot to set up illegal gambling operations through payoffs, bribery and extortion, federal agents said Friday. The charges are the result of an FBI sting operation in which agents worked undercover for three years, operating a plush, lucrative club to draw in the underworld figures, said Robert W. Butler, special agent in charge of the Tampa FBI office.

The Dallas Morning News May 1, 1983

TRADING WITH THE ENEMY

By Charles Higham (Delacorte, $15.95)

A SENSATIONALIST yet firmly rooted history of the U.S. businessmen who actively though discreetly traded with Nazi Germany from Hitler's onset until the end of World War II, Higham's study give little quarter to Standard Oil, the Chase Bank, Texaco, ITT, or Ford Motor Co. These multinational companies were abetted and promoted in their dealings with Hitler by the ambassadors to England and France, as well as by numerous persons in the State Department. These top-level American officials dealt their amoral, self-aggrandizing deviousness through the Nazi-controlled Bank for International Settlement in Basel, Switzerland (which in turn was directed by an American, as late as 1944). Want to know why Standard Oil shipped petroleum products to the Germans while the Allied forces bled and died for lack of gasoline or why Ford trucks were deliverd to the Wehrmacht while our own tired infantrymen were walking? Higham can tell you in documented detail. The story he reveals is one of sordid opportunism at the highests levels of American government and business; it sheds much-needed light on one of the uglier aspects of America's involvement in World War II.

By William J. Teague

DMN 5-22-83

Sirhan wants board to restore '84 parole

From Wire Reports

LOS ANGELES — Sirhan Sirhan, the convicted assassin of Robert F. Kennedy, says he wants the state Board of Prison Terms to restore the scheduled parole it rescinded last year. Sirhan, 39, who has been at Soledad Prison since his conviction for the June 5, 1968, assassination, will make the request at a June 15 parole hearing at the prison. Kennedy was killed in Los Angeles after winning the California Democratic presidential primary. Sirhan had been scheduled to be released in 1984, but the parole board took away that date last year. Board chairman Raymond Brown said Sirhan had demonstrated "a pattern of threatening behavior" while in prison.

Sirhan Sirhan

Sunday, April 3, 1983 THE WASHINGTON POST

Judge Rejects CIA Bar On Kennedy Documents

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

A federal court judge has rejected an extraordinary effort by the CIA to keep secret thousands of documents concerning the House Assassinations Committee's investigation of the murder of President Kennedy.

Most of the records were CIA documents about the 1963 assassination that were compiled long before the House committee was created. But the CIA had argued that they were transformed into "congressional records" once the committee looked at them and that they were, as a result, beyond the reach of the Freedom of Information Act.

U. S. District Court Judge Thomas A. Flannery turned down the contention last month in a 21-page ruling that emphatically dismissed what he called "the highly attenuated" claim.

Such records, the judge said, "cannot, under any reasoning, become congressional through the mere fact of congressional review." In fact, he said, "these documents never left the possession of the agency, but were reviewed by the committee at CIA headquarters." Beyond that, Flannery observed, a large group of the records, although requested by the Assassinations Committee, was never reviewed by the committee staff.

The decision was handed down in a lawsuit brought by Mark Allen, a Kennedy assassination researcher, who won a similar victory against the FBI last fall from U.S. District Court Judge June Green. Flannery's ruling applies to more than 200,000 pages of CIA records, although the agency has indicated it will continue to keep many of them secret under the FOIA's "national security" exemption.

The FBI has started processing more than 300,000 pages of Kennedy assassination records that it provided the House committee during the course of its 2½-year investigation. The bureau chose not to appeal Green's decision, but the CIA is still reviewing Flannery's order.

The attempt to keep the documents automatically locked up as congressional records for 50 years was devised in 1979 by Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), chairman of the defunct Assassinations Committee, and the committee's former chief counsel, G. Robert Blakey. They asked the CIA, the Justice Department and other executive branch agencies not to release any of the materials churned up by the House investigation "without the written concurrence of the House of Representatives." The CIA embraced the idea.

Flannery held that any letters, reports or other records that the committee generated were entitled to continued secrecy as congressional documents, but that was all. He said executive branch records "created in response to congressional requests" as well as pre-existing documents were still subject to FOIA.

When it released its final report in 1979, the House committee said it was "committed to public disclosure of all the facts" bearing on its investigations. But Stokes and Blakey, it was later discovered, had made arrangements to lock up all the backup records that the committee did not publish.

Critics complained that the policy made it impossible to assess the committee's performance. Stokes and Blakey took the position that they had released all the public needed to know. Allen denounced that as "preposterous" and filed suit.

Lawyers for the clerk of the House argued in a friend-of-the-court brief for continued secrecy, but the House was not a defendant in the case.

DMN 5-30-83

Compromise possible on CIA disclosures

By Robert Pear
New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — Lawyers for the CIA and the American Civil Liberties Union say they may be close to agreement on a formula for amending the Freedom of Information Act to exempt numerous files relating to the agency's clandestine operations.

Spokesmen for the ACLU said the formula would preserve public access to all documents that must be disclosed under current law.

The CIA's support for the plan reflects a major change from its previous insistence that it should be exempted completely from the disclosure law, according to Ernest Mayerfeld, deputy general counsel of the agency.

The compromise is contained in a bill introduced recently by Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

Under the bill, the agency's "operational files," which show how it gathers intelligence, would be exempt from disclosure and the agency would be relieved of its responsibility to search such files in response to information requests under the act. But unclassified political, economic and scientific information obtained through intelligence operations would still be accessible to the public, as it is now supposed to be.

Mark H. Lynch, an ACLU staff attorney, said the Goldwater bill could speed disclosures because the CIA would no longer have to search files that, in practice, yield no documents that can be released. The agency has a large backlog and is just now complying with requests submitted two or three years ago.

"If we thought we were losing information that is now available, we would never go along with this proposal," said Lynch, who has been involved in litigation against the agency for the last eight years. "The bill relieves the agency of the administrative burden of reviewing files whose contents are already exempt. It does not exempt any additional information from release."

The key to the bill is the assumption that the CIA, because of its computerized file system, can separate the fruits of intelligence-gathering from sensitive data about sources of intelligence and the agency's methods in gathering the information.

The bill would authorize the CIA director to designate certain files as "exempt from search, review, publication or disclosure" under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Dallas Morning News Saturday, May 21, 1983

Rites set for Harry Weatherford

Funeral services for Harry H. Weatherford of Buena Vista, Colo., a former Irving resident and a retired major in command of the judicial division of the Dallas County Sheriff's Department, will be held at 2:30 p.m. Monday at Restland Memorial Chapel. Burial will be in Restland Memorial Park.

Harry H. Weatherford

Weatherford, 64, died Thursday at his Buena Vista cabin after receiving an electrical shock.

A native of Dallas, Weatherford attended Crozier Technical High School. In 1951, after more than 15 years of rodeo work, Weatherford joined the Sheriff's Department as a deputy in the patrol section.

Shortly after joining the department, he played an active role in the creation of the Dallas County Posse. Weatherford also helped coordinate the Chisholm Trail Ride, a group of cowboys that joined a horse caravan each year to open the State Fair of Texas.

From 1953 to 1955, he served as a sergeant in the criminal investigation division. Weatherford then became a sergeant in the prisoner-transfer section. In 1973, he was promoted to a lieutenant in the fugitive section and worked there for five years before being named director of the judicial division.

Weatherford retired from the sheriff's department in 1979 but was called out of retirement in 1981 by newly-elected Sheriff Don Byrd. He returned to head the judicial division and retired again in 1982.

He is survived by his wife, Wylodene Weatherford; three daughters, Karon Dene Garrett of Lewisville, Carla Jo Bass of Irving and Jeri Lee Turner of Dallas; a son, Harry Weatherford Jr. of Houston; a brother, Ted Weatherford of Arlington, and five grandchildren.

(Roger Craig learned that Weatherford was on top of the DCRB with a rifle when JFK was shot, even though Sheriff's officers had been instructed to play no part in security. Weatherford's report on 11-22 (19H502) says he was in front of the office on Main, adding that he went to the TSBD and stepped onto the roof of the loading dock looking for "expended shell cases." Newsfilm shot by Malcolm Couch shows a man climbing off the roof into the TSBD some 5-10 minutes after the shooting. Who knows? Weatherford took it with him)

FWST 5-14-83

Noguchi writing book

A book by Dr. Thomas Noguchi, demoted Los Angeles County coroner, will shed new light on some celebrity deaths when it is published by Simon & Schuster in October, a spokesman for publishing company said Wednesday.

The hardcover book will be called *Coroner*, with the subtitle: "America's Most Controversial Medical Examiner — His Story, His Cases," Sonja Bolle, the spokesman, said in a telephone interview from New York. The co-author is Joseph DiMona.

Noguchi, now a county autopsy specialist, will delve into facts surrounding the deaths of presidential aspirant Robert Kennedy and such show business celebrities as Marilyn Monroe, Natalie Wood, Janis Joplin, William Holden and John Belushi, Bolle said.

FRANK STURGIS DISCUSSES MARITA LORENZ ON "LIE DETECTOR"

by Gary Mack

In many cities this spring viewers saw and heard Watergate burglar Frank Sturgis [FS] on Lie Detector, a syndicated tv show hosted by attorney F. Lee Bailey [FLB]. And on his second appearance, Sturgis was questioned about his alleged role in the JFK assassination. These are the more relevant responses during the pretest interview:

FLB: ...One allegation which disturbs him, though, asserts that he was standing on the grassy knoll [sic] in Dallas, Texas in November, 1963 at the moment President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. Frank talked about that allegation with our reporter Gail Grasso [GG] in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

GG: ...A Marita Lorenz claimed that she saw you in the car with Mr. Hunt and Oswald the day before the assassination took place. Is that true?

FS: That's not true. She made numerous claims; for instance, she claimed that both myself, Hunt and several of my Cuban exile friends left Miami with her, with Harvey, Lee Harvey Oswald, left Miami to drive to Dallas, and the time limit was very bad because there's no way we could drive from Miami in three or four cars, no way we could have got to Dallas, no way we could assassinate the President. She lied right there, that's number one.

GG: Who is Marita Lorenz, and how are you acquainted with her?

FS: Yes, I knew Marita Lorenz way back in Cuba when the Cuban Revolution was over with and Castro came into power.

GG: And why did she implicate you in the assassination?

FS: Well for many years I have been through the investigation of the Kennedy assassination and I have accused the Cuban Intelligence Service, which the KGB was behind the Cuban Intelligence Service, and showed and gave documents to the intelligence service in the United States and to the government of the United States linking both Har, uh, Lee Harvey Oswald with Ruby with the Cuban Intelligence Service. Oswald went to Mexico City...made contact with the Cuban Embassy and also the Russian embassy in Mexico City.

GG: Let's get back to Marita Lorenz. According to your story, she set you up. How did this happen?

FS: See, when she made these accusations...I spoke to her on the phone and she says "Oh Frank, I'm sorry, but I was more or less forced into this thing and I can't tell you on the telephone." And I said "Who forced you...like, I don't think you did this on your own," 'cause I gave her the benefit of the doubt, which I shouldn't of. ...I called Jack Anderson up and told Jack Anderson...I'll come down to Washington and...Marita's going to tell what the pressure was behind it. ...She made some wild accusations...involving the CIA, that we were CIA agents, myself, Mr. Hunt were involved in the assassination, we went down there, she went with us with Oswald and drove down there. It was all money backed up by [probable edit] and that was a lie...And Henry [Rothblatt, Sturgis' attorney] uncovered through her deposition that...her 15 year old daughter was arrested carrying a weapon because she [Marita] was involved with the police department in doing some type of undercover work, and so forth, for them and for some reason the daughter got involved and got arrested...and the best patsy in the world was me.

GG: So she agreed that she did lie, you were cleared of all charges. Did you sue?

FS: Not her, the City of New York and the police department. [Sturgis sued for false arrest]

GG: And did you win?

FS: Yes ma'am.

GG: During this time were you aware of any CIA involvement with the assassination of the President?

FS: No.

GG: No such involvement as far as your knowledge is concerned?

FS: As far as my knowledge is concerned, no, nothing. Uh I do not believe, did not believe then nor do I believe today that Central Intelligence Agency was ever involved in the assassination of the President of the United States. It's ridiculous, really.

GG: Did you ever meet Lee Harvey Oswald?

FS: No.

GG: Where were you on the day the President was assassinated?

FS: Here in Miami with my family watching what happened on television in Dallas, watching what was happening in Dallas on television, right here in Miami.

GG: Do you personally think that more than one person was involved in the assassination of the President?

FS: Yes [edit].

GG: What is your theory on it?

FS: Well my theory is based on certain investigations that I have conducted, myself, in this sad part of American history. Because of my involvement in Cuba and of all our problems even until today where Castro and his intelligence services have been involved in many murders and civil wars and revolutionary activities throughout this whole hemisphere, including Africa. I mean, the proof is there.

Sturgis was judged to be truthful when he denied any foreknowledge of, or participation in, the killing of JFK. The examiner noted that Sturgis had stronger reactions to the control questions than the relevant questions, but regular viewers have been "educated" on that point. Some reaction to the relevant questions could mean the subject has some knowledge which "troubles" him, and shows up on his charts. And unlike most other shows, viewers were shown very little of the actual test results.

At the end, when Sturgis was informed of the results, he seemed generally surprised and could only mumble "Well, thank you."

So who pressured Marita Lorenz into making the initial charges and why? What was her real role with the NYPD? How could her daughter's arrest possibly be blamed on "patsy" Sturgis? And why does Sturgis, and many others, continually refer to Oswald as "Harvey?" Was that a code name known to only a select few? Can someone write or provide an article that pulls this information together?

PARADE 5-29-83

Q *What has happened to Megan Marshack, the young art assistant whom the late Nelson Rockefeller set up with an apartment at 25 W. 54th St., a few doors away from his own Manhattan townhouse?— R.E.A., San Antonio, Tex.*

A Marshack worked for CBS for a while following Rockefeller's death, then left to free-lance as a journalist in Southern California.

American Assassins and the Return of the "Lone Nut"

By Fred Garcia

Assassination theories are nothing new to the readers of this newsletter. Any person who has done even a minimal amount of reading and/or research into the assassination of President Kennedy is aware of the many diverse theories that exist to explain JFK's murder. James W. Clarke, a professor of political science at the University of Arizona, is the author of a recently published book presenting still another theory as to who killed JFK and the reasons behind the assassination. However, upon close scrutiny, Clarke has not blazed any new trails of insight or understanding with his work. Instead, he has merely added a new layer of pavement to an already well traveled road.

Clarke's book, *American Assassins—The Darker Side of Politics*, is an examination of assassination and its effect on the American political process throughout the nation's history. The book looks at the lives of sixteen American assassins and would-be assassins, from Richard Lawrence to Sara Jane Moore (with passing reference to John Hinckley), in an attempt to understand what motivated these people to resort to assassination. Clarke's treatment of Lee Harvey Oswald is only one of sixteen profiles of American assassins, but it is the most relevant to readers of this newsletter and should provide an indication of his book's overall content and merit.

In observing the phenomenon of assassination in the United States, Clarke has developed what he terms the "pathological theory" of assassination. By this theory Clarke maintains that assassins "...are acutely disturbed persons who suffer from such a diminished sense of self that their lives become increasingly isolated, bitter and unbearable. Accordingly, this profound sense of failure translates into a generalized distrust of others to the extent that compensatory delusions of persecution and grandeur begin to dominate the subject's life. This distortion of reality is ultimately expressed in the irrational act of assassination."[1] Longtime students of the JFK assassination should by now begin to get the drift as to where Clarke's theory is leading and how Lee Harvey Oswald fits into it.

Armed with his theory, Clarke set about reviewing the lives of the various assassins and the circumstances surrounding their acts, making use of various psychiatric literature to aid in his study. Based on his research, Clarke found that he could "make some suggestive judgments about the motives, rationality, and criminal culpability" of the selected assassins, from which "it soon became apparent that certain patterns were observable."[2] Clarke was then able to further clarify the patterns he found as being distinct types of assassins.

As a result of his work, Clarke found that American assassins can be placed into four types, or categories (two assassins, Carl Weiss and James Earl Ray, do not fit any of Clarke's assassin types and were placed in a category labeled Atypical). While Clarke denies that he is trying to "impose a new classification scheme" by grouping the selected assassins into types,[3] the end result of his work boils down to just what he seeks to avoid. It is really quite convenient to be able to explain away assassinations in the United States (particularly those of the last twenty years) by finding the appropriate slot into which each assassin (or future assassin) can be placed.

Clarke holds that Lee Harvey Oswald is a Type II assassin, which is characterized by "overwhelming and aggressive needs for acceptance, recognition and status."[4] Such individuals possess a "political personality" and seek to compensate for a lack of "love or affection in their personal lives" by striking out against a public figure as an attention getting device.[5] Further, Clarke maintains that "The neurotic Type II assassin is an anxious, emotional and ultimately depressed person who is primarily concerned with his or her personal problems and frustrations and only secondarily with causes or ideals."[6]

As Clarke deals with Lee Harvey Oswald, we are once again brought face to face with the standard interpretation of the man, i.e., Oswald as an emotionally deprived, neurotic loner, unable to establish any meaningful relationship with the world around him—we have heard it all so many times before. *The Warren Report, The Death of A President, The Day Kennedy Was Shot, Portrait of The Assassin, The Two Assassins, Marina and Lee*—all of these books, and others as well, have attempted to deal with the assassination by portraying Lee Harvey Oswald as a "lone nut" assassin.

As such, Clarke's theory is certainly nothing original or even necessary, for that matter. Do we really need yet another dusting off of the "lone nut" explanation of the assassination of John Kennedy? I think not, but it is not really Clarke's theory that I find most objectionable in his presentation of Lee Harvey Oswald in *American Assassins*.

In both the Preface and the first chapter of his book, Clarke makes it clear that he paid close attention to the facts surrounding each case he presented. As Clarke states in the Preface, "I sought not only to present facts but also to convey the moods and feelings that pervaded these dark events."[7] Reiterating this same point in Chapter One, Clarke notes that "In writing this, I have attempted not only to communicate facts but, in a departure from the usual standards of academic writing, I have tried to convey a mood about these people and their times."[8] In the most direct declaration of his intentions, Professor Clarke writes "But my purpose is to present accurate information—not apologies."[9] Clarke's discussion of Oswald makes me wonder how sincere he was in wanting to present "accurate information."

What Clarke has done is present a chronological history of Lee Oswald's life following the trail marked by the Warren Commission and its descendants, examining and analyzing Oswald's actions in the light of Clarke's specific theory that Oswald is a Type II assassin. In doing this, Clarke has been quite selective in choosing the "facts" of the case, glossing over some parts of Oswald's life, omitting other parts and totally ignoring many aspects of Lee Oswald's life and actions that might indicate either his innocence or lessen the viability of his own theory.

Clarke has no doubt about Lee Harvey Oswald's guilt in the assassination of President Kennedy. His opening sentence in the section on Oswald (which runs slightly over twenty-one pages) reads "There is little doubt that Lee Harvey Oswald killed President Kennedy on that sunny, clear November afternoon in Dallas."[10]

While I will give Professor Clarke credit for his knowledge of the weather conditions in Dallas on November 22, 1963, that is about as far as I am prepared to go in agreeing with his preceding assertion. Clarke has chosen to ignore the numerous public opinion polls which indicate there is quite a bit of doubt that a "lone nut" killed President Kennedy. To cite only one such survey, in a poll conducted by Cambridge Survey Research during the summer of 1975, only 18% of those responding felt that President Kennedy was the victim of a "lone deranged assassin (the Commission finding)."[11] As well, Clarke has ignored testimony and evidence found within the *Warren Report* and its companion 26 volumes which casts a great deal of doubt on Oswald's guilt.

It is neither my purpose nor is it within the scope of this article to enter into a debate with Professor Clarke about Oswald's guilt or innocence. There are numerous books that authoritatively examine that matter in great depth. My own views on Oswald should be readily apparent throughout the course of this article. I would just like to quote the following observation made by Carl Oglesby before moving on. In *The Yankee and Cowboy War*, Oglesby writes that "...nobody is going to get anywhere at all with the question "Who was Oswald" by starting out convinced that Oswald killed Kennedy. That was where Warren had started. Any new investigation starting from the same assumption will come to the same or worse confusion...the key question is still "Who killed JFK?" Oswald is not yet proved guilty."[12]

Clarke's account of Lee Oswald's hitch in the Marine Corps dwells on Oswald's reputation as a loner and his disciplinary problems, all of which combined to embitter Oswald against the Corps and eventually led to his decision to defect to Russia. In analyzing Oswald's stay in the Marines, Clarke found that "there appeared to be a direct relationship between his difficulties in the Marines, his interest in the Soviet Union, and the intensity with which he pursued his study of the Russian language."[13]

Clarke maintains that one reason for Oswald's disillusionment with Marine Corps life was due to a lack of recognition from Marine Corps officers who were "perhaps even less inclined to acknowledge what he (Oswald) considered to be his superior abilities."[14] Nowhere does Clarke mention that one officer wrote of Oswald that "I would desire to have him work for me at any time...He minds his own business and he does his job well."[15] Nor does Clarke mention that Oswald served as crew chief or that one Marine said of Oswald that "he had the sort of intelligence where you could show him how to do something once and he'd know how to do it, even if it was pretty complicated."[16] While not Clarke's most serious distortion of Lee Harvey Oswald, it does not contribute to a complete understanding of Oswald as a Marine. What Clarke's account does is coincide with his own picture of Oswald's development into a Type II assassin.

Clarke spends over three pages dealing with the General Walker shooting incident. His account of this episode in Lee Harvey Oswald's life is consistent with that of the *Warren Report* and later accounts, including that of the House Select Committee on Assassinations. As well as showing Oswald's "disposition to take human life," his psychological problems and alienation with American society, the Walker shooting, contends Clarke, was a way for Oswald to "establish his credentials in a way that would impress a revolutionary military government that had seized power after years of skillfully directed guerilla warfare"—Cuba.[17]

Clarke writes that Oswald indeed fired the shot that barely missed General Walker and continues that "there was no evidence of a conspiracy in the attempt on General Walker's life."[18] To a great degree, the veracity of the Walker incident hinges upon the testimony of Marina Oswald and George de Mohrenschildt, two highly questionable sources at best. Marina Oswald's account of the Walker incident contains a number of inconsistencies; that of de Mohrenschildt is similarly plagued.

In examining the Walker incident, Clarke appears to have disregarded the testimony of Walter Coleman. Coleman was a fourteen year old neighbor of General Walker who, upon hearing the shot fired, looked over his fence to see what had happened. Coleman saw several men departing from the alley behind Walker's house in "a light green or light blue Ford, either a 1959 or 1960 model. He said he also saw another car, a 1958 Chevrolet, black with white trim down the side, in a church parking lot adjacent to Walker's house. The car door was open, and a man was bending over the back seat, as though he was placing something on the floor of the car."[19] Coleman said that he had got a look at the men involved and that none bore any resemblance to Lee Harvey Oswald.[20]

The Odio incident receives only one paragraph of attention from Clarke, who again selects only those facts which suit his theory of Oswald. For what many have pointed to as being "the proof of the plot," Clarke manages to downplay considerably, turning it into an attempt by Oswald to establish pro-Castro credentials. For Clarke, the "purpose of the meeting (with Odio) was, in all probability, to infiltrate or gain more information about anti-Castro activities."[21]

Clarke does not try to establish a date for the Odio incident, for to do so would pose a problem for his presentation of Oswald as the assassin of President Kennedy. The closest Clarke comes to fixing a date for the meeting with Odio is when he refers to "that late September night."[22] Even the Warren Commission did better than that.

Nevertheless, Oswald was among the three men who came to visit Silvia Odio on September 26, 1963, according to Clarke. En route to Mexico City from New Orleans, Oswald arrived in Dallas and then "...immediately made contact with two pro-Castro Cubans. They, in turn, took him to the apartment of a young Cuban exile, Silvia Odio."[23]

I am at a loss to understand or explain how Clarke can identify the two men accompanying "Oswald" as being "pro-Castro Cubans." Every account of the Odio incident that I have read lists the participants in the meeting with Silvia Odio as being men having strong associations with *anti*-Castro elements engaged in guerilla activities against Castro's Cuba.

Professor Clarke completely ignores the possibility that Oswald was being impersonated in an attempt to implicate him in the impending assassination. The existence of an Oswald impersonator operating in the Dallas area in the months preceding the assassination has been firmly established by researchers over the years. The Odio incident is certainly one of the strongest pieces of evidence of such an impersonation. Yet Clarke will have nothing to do with that possibility, for to do so indicates a conspiracy existed in the murder of John Kennedy. Such a possibility is anathema to Clarke's argument and again the "facts" were carefully selected to fit the argument in his book.

There are other instances of factual omission and selectivity in Clarke's telling of Lee Harvey Oswald's life. Clarke fails to mention that after his August 9, 1963 arrest in New Orleans, Oswald requested and was granted an interview with a local FBI agent—hardly the expected behavior of someone attempting to establish pro-Castro credentials as Clarke claims was the purpose behind Oswald's activities in New Orleans. Clarke's account of Oswald's visit to the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City says nothing about the CIA photographs taken of someone thought by CIA officials to be Oswald but which in reality are of someone else. At no time does Clarke ever make reference to the numerous links to the intelligence community that are part of Lee Harvey Oswald's life.

On the matter of whether Oswald acted alone in the assassination, Clarke decides to play it safe and hedges his bet. Clarke feels that overall "the probability of such persons being involved seems slight"[24] and "unlikely, even though Oswald's Cuban activities undoubtedly led to contacts with a number of persons whose names have been mentioned as possible conspirators."[25] Still, Clarke says that "...the only significant evidence that Oswald might have been involved in a conspiracy is the acoustical analysis of the gunfire at the Dealey Plaza assassination site. The tests conducted at the request of the House Select Committee on Assassinations suggest that a second gunman may have fired one shot that missed from the grassy knoll in front of the President's limousine."[26]

Such evidence does not deter Clarke from sticking to his guns in his belief that Oswald alone shot JFK, for "other convincing supporting evidence has yet to surface."[27] Again, there is neither time nor space to debate Professor Clarke on that point. Besides, had he taken the time to do so, Clarke would have found that "other convincing supporting evidence" has indeed surfaced and is readily available.

A major fault with Clarke's analysis can be found by looking at the bibliography for his section on Lee Harvey Oswald. In total, Clarke consulted eleven books, documents and newspapers in the course of researching Lee Oswald and his part in the assassination. The books listed include three on pyschology, as well as Daniel Schorr's *Clearing The Air*, and Priscilla Johnson McMillan's *Marina and Lee*. The documents Clarke used include the *Warren Report*, the HSCA's *Report on Findings and Recommendations* and the *Hearings on Federal Bureau of Investigation Oversight*. The New Orleans Times-Picayune for August-September of 1963 was the only newspaper used by Clarke for his study of Oswald. This is a very short and narrow bibliography, even for use in a project such as Clarke's analysis of Lee Harvey Oswald.

Clarke is guilty of the same glaring and inexcusable error as the Warren Commission in dealing with Lee Harvey Oswald. He presumed Oswald to be guilty from the start and selected only those facts which fit his interpretation of Oswald's life and actions, according to his concept of Type II assassins. His bibliography reflects this selectivity in its narrowness. Clarke judged that Oswald was a neurotic misfit whose psychosis put him on a irrevocable path to assassinate President Kennedy. Of course Clarke knows this to be true—don't the *Warren Report* and *Marina and Lee* tell him so? And doesn't such a picture of Oswald fit exactly into Clarke's definition of a Type II assassin? No wonder Professor Clarke could conclude that Oswald killed JFK.

I am completely taken aback at Professor Clarke's total exclusion of what constitutes the great majority of what has been written about the assassination of President Kennedy. Would it not have been wiser to have included in his bibliography even several of the virtually scores of books or articles that have been written

about the assassination which are critical of the "official" explanation of what took place, if only for the sake of giving the appearance of objectivity? The bibliography contained in J. Gary Shaw and Larry R. Harris' *Coverup* states that "in the interest of objectivity the books are divided into two categories: those supporting and defending the Warren Commission's report, and those criticizing it and/or contradicting its conclusions."[28] The list of books Shaw and Harris consulted which support the *Warren Report's* conclusions exceeds the total number of books Clarke used for his entire section on Oswald which, again, included three books on psychology.

By failing to use a wider selection of resource material, Professor Clarke severely limited the scope and nature of his investigation, to say nothing of any conclusions he might have reached. But then those conclusions had probably already been determined before he started to delve into the complexities of Lee Harvey Oswald's life. It was simply a matter of selecting those aspects of Oswald's life which fit into and supported his theory and predetermined conclusions. Why bother to read or even consult Anthony Summers' *Conspiracy* when Priscilla Johnson McMillan's *Marina and Lee* has just what the doctor ordered.

In his Preface to *American Assassins* Professor Clarke states that his "research relies as much as possible on primary sources."[29] At no point in his section on Lee Harvey Oswald does Clarke make any reference to the Zapruder film. Abraham Zapruder's chilling visual record of Kennedy's murder certainly qualifies as a primary source if ever there was one. While the Zapruder film does not reveal a great deal of information about the state of mind of any assassin shooting at President Kennedy, it speaks eloquently about the direction from which the fatal shot originated and certainly makes it difficult for Clarke to maintain that a "second gunman may have fired one shot that missed from the grassy knoll."[30]

Professor Clarke's "pathological theory" of assassination and his application of it to Lee Harvey Oswald in *American Assassins* does little to advance our knowledge or understanding of President Kennedy's murder. Ultimately, his theory turns out to be merely a warmed over presentation of an explanation of the JFK assassination that has long since been discredited. By relying on his psychologically based interpretation of Lee Oswald's life, Clarke has failed to cast any real light on "the darker side of politics" that has haunted the United States for the past twenty years.

1. James W. Clarke, American Assassins—The Darker Side of Politics (Princeton University Press, 1982), page 5.
2. Ibid, page 14.
3. Ibid, page 14.
4. Ibid, page 14.
5. Ibid, page 15.
6. Ibid, page 15.
7. Ibid, Preface.
8. Ibid, page 16.
9. Ibid, Preface.
10. Ibid, page 107.
11. Robert Sam Anson, "They've Killed the President"—The Search for the Murderers of John F. Kennedy (Bantam Books, New York, New York, 1975), page 3.
12. Carl Oglesby, The Yankee and Cowboy War (Berkeley Medallion Books, New York, 1977), page 158.
13. Clarke, page 110.
14. Ibid, page 109.
15. Anthony Summers, Conspiracy—Who Killed President Kennedy? (Fontana Paperbacks, 1980), page 144.
16. Ibid, page 144.
17. Clarke, page 114.
18. Ibid, page 127.
19. Summers, page 244.
20. Ibid, page 244.
21. Clarke, page 119.
22. Ibid, page 126.
23. Ibid, page 118.
24. Ibid, 127.
25. Ibid, page 126.
26. Ibid, page 127.
27. Ibid, pages 127-128.
28. J. Gary Shaw and Larry R. Harris, Coverup: The Governmental Conspiracy to Conceal the Facts About the Public Execution of John Kennedy (Self published, Cleburne, Texas, 1976), page 219.
29. Clarke, Preface.
30. Ibid, page 127.

The Dallas Morning News **Saturday, April 30, 1983**

3 linked to CIA ex-agent's case have died

Associated Press

Waldo H. Dubberstein, the former Defense Department intelligence analyst found dead Friday in a suburban Washington apartment building with a shotgun next to his body, became the third person connected to the case of ex-CIA agent Edwin P. Wilson to die under suspicious circumstances.

Waldo H. Dubberstein

The FBI is investigating the apparent suicide.

A federal grand jury in Alexandria had indicted Dubberstein Thursday on charges of selling secret U.S. data about the Middle East for $32,000 to Wilson and to Libyan intelligence officials.

Wilson and Douglas Schlachter, who managed Wilson's operations in Libya, were named as unindicted co-conspirators in the Dubberstein case.

Kevin Mulcahy, a former CIA analyst who was expected to testify against Wilson, was found dead in 1982 in a remote area of the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. His death was exhaustively investigated but finally was attributed to natural causes.

In fall 1982, Rafael Villaverde, a Cuban whom sources said would have testfied about Wilson's involvement in an alleged plot to kill a Libyan dissident in Egypt, died in a boating accident off Miami. The death was ruled accidental by Bahamian authorities.

FWST 4-21-83

Felony 'leak' legislation considered

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration is considering seeking legislation to make all leaks of classified information by present or past government employees a felony.

Such legislation was recommended to President Reagan's national security adviser, William P. Clark, by an interagency committee in March 1982. The committee suggested a top penalty for such leaks of three years in prison and a $10,000 fine.

The recommendations of the committee, which was chaired by Deputy Assistant Attorney General Richard K. Willard, were released Wednesday upon request by the Justice Department.

In an interview, Willard said the recommendation for legislation "is still under consideration, but no final decision has been made. I think this administration would support such a law, but it's not clear whether it's worth a big push at this time given other legislative priorities."

Willard acknowledged that even the statute recommended by his panel would share some of the problems of existing laws, such as the need for the government to admit in court that the leaked information was actually classified data.

The Willard panel also recommended further study of proposing civil penalties for unauthorized recipients of classified information, including journalists. The committee said the "subject merits further study as an effective, though probably controversial, method of deterring unauthorized disclosures."

But Willard said Wednesday that civil penalties for journalists who published leaked information "are not under active consideration at this time."

The panel, which included representatives of the CIA, the Treasury, and the Defense and Energy Departments, was set up to recommend ways to stop classified information from leaking to the news media.

Many of its recommendations were implemented in a sweeping directive Reagan issued last month. That directive, which has rais protests in Congress, requires hu dreds of thousands of federal e ployees to sign promises not to le classified data and to risk dismis if they refuse a request to tak polygraph test in a leak investi tion.

Reagan also added thousar more high-level federal officials those already required to subi any writings, even after they lea office, to government review fore publication for deletion of a secret material.

96 ways to entertain your out-of-town visitors

4/22/83 THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

By Kim Martin

It's spring — that time of year when out-of-town visitors, resplendent in their bermuda shorts and camera bags, come knocking on your door, breathless and full of enthusiasm and ready to immerse themselves in your city.

They want to see Southfork, and they want to go to White Water. They want to party the night away, and they want to see a real, live rodeo.

And they want to do it all in six days!

Because you live here, you're elected to show them the highlights — or at least get them started in the right direction when you have to attend to silly matters like working or grocery shopping.

So, to help you sort out the sights and sounds of North Central Texas, we've put together our annual compendium of visitor hot spots — whether your out-of-town guests want to shop for native Texas plants or 2-step with native Texas women. Ready, set — go for it.

Downtown sights:

4 Just north on Houston, you'll see the **Old Red Courthouse**, which was built in 1893. Note the gargoyles looming overhead.

5 Just east of Old Red on Main Street, find the **Kennedy Memorial Plaza**, a cenotaph honoring the late President John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated in Dallas in 1963.

10 The building on the northwest corner of Houston and Elm (411 Elm) in the Warehouse District is the Dallas County Administration Building, better known to out-of-town visitors as the **Texas School Book Depository**, from which Lee Harvey Oswald is said to have fired the shots that killed President Kennedy. ("The" window is on the 6th floor.)

11-12 **Dealey Plaza**, across the street facing Houston, is a good vantage point from which to view the Depository. The famous **"grassy knoll"** lies almost in the shadow of the building just to the west.

13 Assassination buffs will want to travel west by car on Elm, toward the **triple underpass**, just as the presidental limousine did on its fatal journey.

14 For another sight for those interested in the assassination, travel east on Main Street all the way to the opposite end of town to the garage entrance of the **Dallas Police Station** (at Main and Harwood). There, on the Main side, you can see the driveway leading into the underground parking garage where Oswald was shot to death by Jack Ruby.

BRIEFS....Anyone who thinks doing a monthly newsletter is easy ought to be transferred from the DPD to a waiting car - yes, Coverups will get back on schedule soon.. ..Earl Golz, executive editor of a new magazine to be distributed at 7-11 stores, has been fired by publisher John Power over content policy (which must also meet the approval of parent corporation Southland); the "final straw" was Earl's insistence that an article by Jeff Cohen about FBI harassment of MLK appear in the debut issue. Some people apparently still believe King had Communist connections, or so Earl was told by Power - so when you see "XL" at your nearby 7-11, don't buy it (or anything else either); in fact, perhaps our friends at the MLK Foundation in Atlanta would like to know about this latest Dallas tragedy?....All's quiet with the acoustics issue, so this might be a good time to wonder out loud why some "researchers" have been so quick to embrace the NAS' conclusions and so reluctant to criticize its methods.... Researcher Jim Marrs is doing quite well as editor and publisher of a small town weekly newspaper; Jim thinks as many researchers as possible should gather for a symposium in November - he's even reserved a large hall at the University of Texas at Arlington (in between Dallas and Fort Worth) and planned a reasonable admission fee to cover some expenses of those who absolutely cannot afford the trip. All in favor, contact Coverups....Paul Hoch suggests each Coverups include a recently released document to generate some new input - sounds good to me....Part 4 of the Oswald exhumation story is not yet complete, but this much is known: Colonel Seltzer, believed to be Army Intelligence, owned and operated Rose Hill Cemetery until several years after the assassination; and a Mr. Johnson, the superintendent, died in a bathtub in very strange circumstances....To get a better idea of what LHO's craniotomy should have looked like, see photo 33 in Best Evidence or 7HSCA114&115....Dallas civic leaders and Republican convention planners are quite divided over the assassination issue in regard to next year's get together; the convention site is less than a rifle shot from the TSBD and a booklet about Big D will contain a whole chapter (!) about November 22, 1963 - it's enough to make one renounce his citizenship.

COVERUPS! is published monthly with 8 or more pages of useful information for JFK researchers and historians. Subscription price in North America is $1.00 (US) per issue; residents of other countries should write for foreign rates. Back issues are available at your regular subscription price. Your subscription expires with the issue number on your address label. Original manuscripts, articles and newspaper clippings are always appreciated—your contributions are essential for a good newsletter!

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